From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Dick G0BPS <dick@kanga.demon.co.uk>
Subject: [1810] ** WINTER SPORTS **
Message-ID: <349@kanga.demon.co.uk>

Hi gang,

Just a reminder about the winter sports.
This is NOT a contest, just a gathering
of like minded folk on the air with flea
power. In EU we will be found on the bands
around the QRP frequencies between 26th
December and 1st January. The bands will
be 'heaving' with activity so you foreigners
over there in the US, please listen out for
those of us over here, you may be surprised
at what you might work.

Happy Christmas one and all, I shall be
listening for you on the bands.

TTFN de Dick

--

****
*   *
*   Dick G0BPS / G0ROO KANGA PRODUCTS   *
*   The UKs biggest supplier of great   *
*   QRP kits and simple test equipment   *
*   *
****

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Ptcandy@aol.com
Subject: [1819] ?? on flying with qrp rigs and hotel antenna's
Message-ID: <951223095745_22261967@mail06.mail.aol.com>

1. The company I work for has promoted me (I think) to national sales manager. My territory has expanded from the NYC area to most of the US and Canada. I would like to take my rig with me. However, with all this extra security at the airport, I don't want to be delayed by inquisitive security people at the terminal. I never check by baggage so anything I take, I carry on the plane. Should I expect any problems?

2. I have tried in the past various antenna setups in hotel rooms with rather poor results. Either the window's don't open or their is a high amount

of electrical noise or some other problem. Has anyone had any experience with compact antenna's which would give my meek signal a fighting chance of getting out? How about the isoloop?

3. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my fellow QRP-L'ers the best of season's greetings and a healthy and happy new year.
May all your QSO's be 5-9 -(9) +
May all your home brew (built) projects work the first time
May you work every fox on the first call
May your SWR be 1:1 (at every point on the transmission line)
May you hold the frequency for as long as you want
MAY THERE BE PEACE!!

Regards,
Peter N2KPY

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Raymond Sommers <rsommers@worf.uwsp.edu>
Subject: [1823] antenna definitions ;-)
Message-ID: <Pine.BSI.3.91.951223110705.18057A-100000@worf.uwsp.edu>

With all the talk about antennas here's some definitions I found at
http://swcp.com/~ab5p/hamdefs.htm

```
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 |/\|   |_)    /  the  | ,ittle   | \ ilowatt  \ , uster    (Wisc.)
 ~  ~   ~      '       ~~~        ~ ~   from    ~
```

Ray Sommers,   WB9LKC   QRP-L #8-)
   rsommers@worf.uwsp.edu

SOME AMATEUR RADIO DEFINITIONS

For those new to ham radio, here are some useful definitions, pertaining to antennas and DX-ing.

S.W.R.
A term, applied to any part of the antenna system, which means: "Savings-to-Watt Ratio". Based on the inverse relationship of dollars in the bank and effective radiated power.

Characteristic Impedance

The usual reaction of the XYL when told about the proposed antenna system.

Traps
: Devices installed in antennas to collect rain-water, to keep it from running further down the antenna.

Wind Loading
: The measure of how much more awkward it gets to handle a big beam as you ascend the tower.

Balun
: (Pronounced: "balloon" by many). An anti-surveillance device, installed in coaxial lines at the antenna, to prevent nosy neighbors from eavesdropping on you through their TV sets.

Transmatch
: A device mistakenly believed to decrease S.W.R.. The premise is that this device allows you to load up into a mis-matched antenna. Unfortunately, it the the cost of one that lowers your S.W.R.

House Bracket
: A device which secures the house and the tower together. It lets the tower do double-duty by holding up the house during severe windstorms.

Rotator Control Box
: A device which is designed to let you monitor antenna "windmilling".

Windmilling
: A technique whereby prevailing winds are allowed to rotate the antenna, enabling the operator to "scan" the radio horizon.

Dummy Load
: A measure of the stress exerted on a tower by a ham who climbs the tower without a safety belt.

Coax
: (Usually mis-pronounced as two syllables). A term applied to the maneuvering of a piece of transmission line through the attic or walls of a house.

Db's Gain
: A bunch of yellow-jacketed wasps found a great place to build their nest, at the bottom of the rotator housing on my tower.

Db's Loss
: Fortunately, lightning struck the tower and the wasps were totally destroyed.

Vertical
: A much-maligned antenna, said by some critics to "radiate equally poorly in all directions". This is not true, as many who have built one know. In fact, the vertical can have directional characteristics, and not radiate at all in some directions. I hope this clears up that myth once and for all!

Sloper
: A variation of the vertical, where high winds have affected thin-walled aluminum tubing used in the construction.

Inverted Vee
: A clever, but inferior, reverse adaptation of the true, "upright Vee", which allows the use of a single support instead of the usual two.

Dipole
: Another modification of the true "Vee", and used where it is not possible to get the center feed point close to the ground.

Ground Plane
: Usually, an array of 1/4-wavelength arms extending from the base of some verticals (or "slopers"). These arms are not recommended unless a rotator is also used, to take advantage of their directional features.

Directional Coupler
: A device inserted into the transmission line which monitors the environment outside the shack, by utilizing the antenna as a remote sensor. For example, when the antenna responds to weather conditions such as severe icing or heavy winds, the coupler will produce indications of these responses. A special directional coupler has even been designed, presumably, to tell you when BIRDs are sitting on your antenna!

Smith Chart
: An alias, to be used when you don't want people to know what chart you really used to design your antenna.

Long Path
: The direction you are told to aim your antenna, to work a rare DX station, as suggested by the other fellows in the pileup.

Element Spacing

A critical antenna design factor which is optimized to place the tunable traps on a beam as far out of reach as possible, from the tower.

Diversity Effect
: A property in which the quad-type antenna far excels over the yagi-type antenna. It relates to the number of directions an antenna can collapse into, under heavy winds.

Selective Fading
: A quirk of propagation, whereby a signal arrives at a distant point by multipath, and where the different signal components arrive with varying phase relationships. This causes the signal to be "cancelled out" at some points. This wonderful effect helps eliminate some of the QRM from distant DX stations when you are trying to copy the pileup.

"Off the back of the Antenna"
: A technique used by more experienced DX-ers, where the antenna is pointed away from the station being contacted. This creates a challenge similar to running QRP.

QRP
: Restricting final input power to the transmitter to anything less than 500 watts, on 20 meters.

Speech Processor
: A "state of the art" device which permits one to communicate with as many others at the same time as possible. However, beginner operators need to learn how to use one properly, to expand the signal beyond a narrow, 3 Khz bandwidth.

"IMOKINCALLBK"
: An expression used in a CW QSO, to say: "you send me your QSL card first, turkey, and then I'll send you mine".

IRC
: An economic instrument, adminstered by the US Postal Service, to control the balance-of-trade deficit.

Parasitic Element
: A person who takes lists for DX-stations.

LISTS
: A method of making DX contacts, where some self-appointed person takes a list "on the air" (aka: his buddies on 2-meters) of people who wish to "work" a person in some DX location. This makes it easy for hams who do not have the patience or time to

learn real DX skills to get a quick, easy contact. In fact, if you can't hear the actual report from the foreign station, the list-controller will often help ("...OK, there, WB6xxx, did you hear Jose give you a '59' signal report?").

QSL Manager

The station you worked in Juan De Nova tells you to send a "Green Stamp" to a ham in Germany who is called a "QSL Manager". It is his duty to send your card to a ham in California, who then (after holding it for 8 months) sends you a QSL card.

[LINK] Back to AB5P Homepage

These pages are maintained by Brett Coningham AB5P

Your comments are welcome! Send them to: ab5p@swcp.com

This page last revised: August 23, 1995

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: dgf@netcom.com (David Feldman)
Subject: [1825] Any other users of Tokyo Hy Power HT-750?
Message-ID: <199512231826.KAA28853@netcom12.netcom.com>

I'm looking for other users of this HF SSB/CW HT to trade notes and observations.

If you know of a user not on the internet would you care to pass along the call?

73 Dave WB0GAZ dgf@netcom.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995

From: cmassey@onramp.net (Cleve Massey)
Subject: [1806] ARTIFICIAL GROUNDS
Message-ID: <v02130400ad013aeb4195@[199.1.11.132]>

Seem to remember this being discussed before...but HELP!!!

Can't get a real earth ground connected to the HF rig and want to know if
the artificial grounds are a decent alternative...the MFJ is out there as
well as the kit from Ten-Tec...

Would seem to be essential for the HF rig, but how about another for the 6
mtr. station???

as always, help greatly appreciated.

Thanks in advance...

Pse e-mail direct...

cleve/wd5bor   QRP ARCI #4017

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET (ERNEST GREGOIRE)
Subject: [1837] ATTN QRP+ W1AW TRBL IS FIXED
Message-ID: <199512240257.VAA16921@dartvax.dartmouth.edu>

Hello Gang,

Bruce at Index Labs, fixed the W1AW trouble on 80 meters.
(A brief recap, W1AW does code practdice at 3.5815 and at 1500 watts.
The QRP+ has a spur that is responsible for all but wiping out the
80 meter band when W1AW was broadcasting).

The trouble was very annoying due to the W1AW schedule coinciding with my
operating habits. The fix was to replace the 10.24 MHz microprocessor crystal
with a 10.64 MHz crystal. The microprocessor clock was responsible for the
W1AW trouble.

The 80 meter band has never sounded better. I could not even hear the
code practice on it's assigned frequency, but I could hear it every
where else. Now it is clear as a bell,(the signal is still 50 over 9 here)
and there is no interference with nearby weaker stations. I can't wait to
try this rig out again in a contest.

So QRP+ owners, send in your rigs, you will be very happy with the
improved version of firm ware too. The CW keyer is now in 1 wpm steps,
and the AGC attack is nowhere near as severe as it once was.

There was no charge for the fix, and the invoice showed 12.5 hours
of bench time. Thank you Index, and particularly Bruce Franklin for
putting in the time and effort.

As a bonus, Tim gave me a hint of things to come. He said that Index
has been working on some good stuff for upgrades to the rig. Listen up
all you SSB users, this mod's for you. Speach processing, and other
goodies that must remain under wraps for the time being.(NO,I don't know
what they are either). But he said that the mods would be great!
de AA1IK   N.E.-QRP-C. # 202   (Lead by example, It is better to   )
                  QRP-L member #95.   (pull a string than it is to push it.)
Ernie Gregoire
RR 1 Box 221
Canaan, NH. 03741

New England QRP Club, information
available on request by sending me a
 S.A.S.E. or via E-mail.

e-mail : GREGOIRE@VALLEY.NET
packet : AA1IK@WA1WOK.FN43FE.NH.USA

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: kj7ho@utah-inter.net (Duane Anderson)
Subject: [1805] CQ SKN
Message-ID: <19951223043159530.AAA138@relay.utah-inter.net>

Paul and the gang:

Well, I think that long sales pitch of Paul's sold me. I'll be on SKN night
QRP and see what I can do. Haven't had much luck with QRP on 40 Meters but
will try. Watch for me, Paul.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995

From: paxton@sound.net (frank paxton iii)
Subject: [1835] display problem with Autek RF
Message-ID: <199512240208.UAA03973@sound.net>

i just got my Autek Rf1. all seems to work EXCEPT the display DIMS on the 14-36 Mhz selection. somtimes the display dimming is barely noticeable, at other times it's almost unreadable.
of course i can send it back, but i'd just as soon fix it and get on down the road !
any ideas ?
frank. ng0n.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: km@PACT.ORG.PE (Kris Merschrod)
Subject: [1824] EXTRAs -- the list and the hunt %
Message-ID: <m0tTXWL-000O2OC@rcp.net.pe>

Very interesting,

    Before jumping to conclusions about that particular event of the fox hunt and the skew toward Extras in the responses, it would be good to see the distribution of license categories in the greographic area covered that night.

    We need more data on each and every member including their global position to sort these things out. I'm still trying to figure out just how many different (we are all unique!) hams are in the three lists Chuck posted earlier. Let's see, if I have the union of A&B and the sum of A&B and assume .... yep, there has to be about a couple of thousand, theoretically speaking, but in the praxis only 40 or so make it on a good fox hunt night.

    I do not think that code speed has much to do with the answer - most comments on the List say they never heard the FOX.

    Happy Holidays,

    Kris
    OA4DBO

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: DCrespy@aol.com
Subject: [1807] Fwd: Cascade crystals
Message-ID: <951223002426_97622960@mail06.mail.aol.com>

Forwarded message:
Subj: Cascade crystals
From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: RICHQRP@aol.com
Subject: [1820] greetings
Message-ID: <951223113118_78011440@mail02.mail.aol.com>

This QTH would like to wish all..a very Merry Christmas...and a Happy New Year....the best of the Holiday Seasons to ALL .
73's from WD6FDD,Rich

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: rwright@soml.com (Robert Wright)
Subject: [1828] Happy Holidays!
Message-ID: <199512232119.NAA01110@sonic.net>

Dear QRP-L Group,

Just wanted to wish all of you very happy holidays and I hope Santa fulfills all your QRP desires!

I have a QRP Plus and have been using it on CW only. I just recently purchased the Index Labs microphone and have tried SSB. I note diminished power on my OHR wattmeter in SSB even with a 'whistle-up.' Is this normal for this unit? I note some early comments re audio distortion. What's the best way to set the mike gain?

Thanks very much for your help - individual and collective. I am new to the list here but have been engaged in QRP activities for several years.

VY 73,
Bob WB7CNJ   NorCal #201
Robert Wright
rwright@soml.com

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995

From: RICHQRP@aol.com
Subject: [1821] help
Message-ID: <951223120608_22321503@mail06.mail.aol.com>

I was just dusting off my old key and made the mistake of looking at the "stamp" of where it was made.Can't really make it out ..was wondering if anyone could help??Base of key is brass with maybe chrome or stainless key ?? The stamp when struck did not hit square, this is what it looks like.... x x x onnell.co
New York.USA
the " x's" are the letters that are missing....and not too sure about that "o"..HI HI.

thanks for any info..WD6FDD Rich

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Jim Lowman <jlowman@iepsnet.com>
Subject: [1834] Holiday greetings...
Message-ID: <199512240123.UAA94620@nss2.CC.Lehigh.EDU>

Just wanted to wish all on the QRP-L list the best of the holidays.

With 11 days off, I may just get the antenna up, and the QRP+ on the air for the first time.

Awakened to rain this morning. On the way out to breakfast, we noticed snow in the
nearby mountains - probably down to the 3,000-foot mark. Having grown up in Michigan,
it just doesn't seem the same on Christmas without it. But this way, we have the best
of both worlds; we can observe it from a distance - even take the 4WD Rodeo up into it -
but we don't have to shovel it! :-)

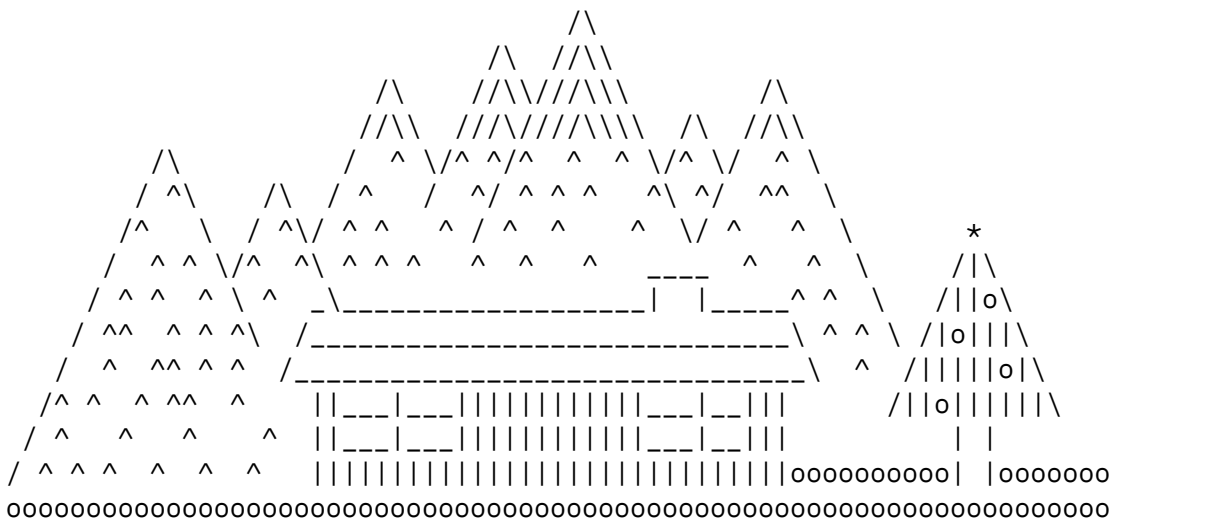
Christmas and the snow were much better when we were kids, anyway.

Anyway, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and best of the New Year to the QRP gang!

Jim - KF6CR
QRP-L #248 (should have been #6!)

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: charles1@netcom.com (charles copeland)
Subject: [1829] Merry Christmas
Message-ID: <199512232211.OAA29394@netcom23.netcom.com>

DE KC5LWF



From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: David Speegle <dspeegle@dialin.ind.net>
Subject: [1831] Merry Christmas!
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951223184857.20622C-100000@dialin.ind.net>

I hope everyone on the list has a Merry Christmas! Dave NE9F QRP-L 258

==
| David Speegle   Email Alias: David.Speegle@dialin.ind.net
|
|
| 311 S West St.
|
| Argos, IN   46511
| Phone: 219.546.3848   FAX:
==

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: wdzeares@ix.netcom.com (W. Dennis Zeares)
Subject: [1815] MFJ 941E Tuner
Message-ID: <199512231357.FAA21588@ix12.ix.netcom.com>

I have a brand new MFJ 941E Tuner for sale. Will ship UPS for $75.
I have have to so I need to sell this one.
E-mail me direct: wdzeares@ix.netcom.com
Thanks, 73/72
Dennis K3ETS, Dallas, Tx.

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: bfinch@asp.vet.purdue.edu (Robert Finch)
Subject: [1811] norcal certificates info
Message-ID: <9512231208.AA29764@asp.vet.purdue.edu>

i have had several messages recently about the certificates
....some have asked how come no certificatrs with their
new memberships....dunno, but that's the way doug h. wants
it....his call too, so if you want one ya gotta ask fer it
.........uh, don't ask me why doug h. or jim cates hasn't
processed ur new membership, agn. i dunno, but you may
wanna ask doug h. by email...dh@deneb.csustan.edu
....
so to recap...send me (bob finch) $ 2.50 for a certificate
to my callbook address for the three years (at least)
......
hope that clears things up abit....
72's baab

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: David Speegle <dspeegle@dialin.ind.net>
Subject: [1832] OHR-400
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951223185157.20622E-100000@dialin.ind.net>

I just picked up a copy of Jan 73 Amateur Radio Today. It had an
excellant article about the OHR-400. There was no mention of the price.
How much does it cost, and has anyone had experience using the rig? Dave NE9F

==
| David Speegle   Email Alias: David.Speegle@dialin.ind.net
|
|
| 311 S West St.
|
| Argos, IN   46511
| Phone: 219.546.3848   FAX:
==

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: bfinch@asp.vet.purdue.edu (Robert Finch)
Subject: [1812] OOPS
Message-ID: <9512231209.AA29767@asp.vet.purdue.edu>

forgot my call at the end of the last message...
u can look up my address under the call n6cxb
sorry about that...hi
72's baab

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: ae4ic@nr.infi.net (BOB KELLOGG)
Subject: [1836] Power Supplies
Message-ID: <199512240239.VAA06130@moe.infi.net>

Gang,

Just shoot me down if this has been covered before, but it looks like
computer power supplies would be a good cheap resource for shack power
supplies. They would also be small and lightweight

I've fooled around with a couple of them, and it seems that the way they are designed, there must be considerable current draw before they work. I'm not sure why that's necessary. It looks like the circuit could be simplified to just produce 12 volts, (or maybe a variable voltage), eliminating the minus voltages and the 5 volts.

Does anyone know anything about these transformerless switching supplies? Does anyone know of a book or resource material on the design?

73,
Bob Kellogg, AE4IC
Prolably, but not nececelery. - Benny Hill

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Charles Kadesch <103202.3412@compuserve.com>
Subject: [1826] QRP Antennas
Message-ID: <951223185227_103202.3412_IHF68-1@CompuServe.COM>

Peter N2KPY asked about improving the performance of his 40 meter dipole on 80 meters. I pass along my experiences in hope that fellow urban QRPers might find them of interest:

My experience with center fed antennas has been very good- even when less than 1/2 wave long. I am presently using one about 85 ft long and fed with 450 ohm ladder line and it works well on all bands including 80 meters. The antenna is 25 feet up at the highest end.

I think that three things are important:
1. Make the antenna as long as you can but keep it in the clear.
    Don't worry about the specific length. At 1/4 wavelength the efficiency
    is down somewhat but the antenna can still be quite effective with a
    low loss feedline and matching network ("antenna tuner"). On the higher
    bands the radiation pattern will develop lobes but this makes for
interesting
    performance.
2. Feed with low loss balanced feed line.
3. Use a low loss balanced antenna tuner. Some tuners that use a balun
    on the output can have problems with high reactances. I have had
    very good results with an old link-coupled type of tuner.
    The following might also do the trick: An input side balun with
    an ungrounded T or L network. The Super Tee Tuner (SPRAT #72)
    is a compact high efficiency QRP tuner of this type.

I also use a 50 ft vertical antenna which is center fed with 450 ohm line and

a balanced tuner on all bands (including 80) with good results. A bonus: no radials or traps are required.

72 and Happy Holidays

Chas W8KUX
103202.3412@compuserve.com

I also use a 50 ft center fed vertical with

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: NYOUNG@nova.wright.edu
Subject: [1804] SKN, Feliz Navidad, Godt nyttaar, o.s.v.
Message-ID: <01HZ4GEQXO7E8X3QEC@nova.wright.edu>

First off, in BIG LETTERS and little ones, Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for all, their families, extended & otherwise.

Second, I used to get on SKN every year. Used to means that I did that about the first five years that I was out of the Navy. Usually by the time I got around to getting to the radio, I'd already had a few sips of whiskey, but that only made me slower. Eventually, my comrade in revolutionary struggle convinced me that I was a lacky of the reactionary moondogs of capitalist roaders and I stopped. Actually, I just got to the point where most of my friends were hanging around the house and, since my birthday is the 2nd of January, SKN kinda got in the way.

Maybe I'll have better luck this year, since I'm planning on marking the end of the 50th orbit on the Saturday before New Year's Eve. And I've had to cut back on the whiskey, 'cause I end up on the floor and comrade Dave Petreman ends up throwing lemon peels (from pisco sours) at me like some running dog of the bourgeoise classists. So I figure this year I might get everyone out of the house in time to take part in the annual slow key night festivities. And I have so many choices.

There's the JRC key that I bought about 10 years ago, a real beauty that was obviously intended for serious CW in mid-Pacific. Then there's the ol' 1943 vintage key that I traded a J-37 for from a co-worker at Drake. It's rated at something like

8 amps and looks like it. Needs some machine work, though,
'cause the pin at the fulcrum has worn an oval shaped hole
in the keying bar. And there's a J-37 that I put on a plank of
masonite with a NE555 for my son to try out. He's 20 now and
barely has enough time to help with the dishes, let alone
play with radio. There's always the net, you know.

So that's my choices. I'll leave it up to those who catch me
to decide which is which. And no, I will not give in to the
call of the two keyers. I'm not that big a lap dog of the
reactionary capitalist roaders, you know.

Third, I have a mechanical "speed key" or "bug" that appears
to be of Japanese origin. It's got a clear plastic cover
over the innards and on one side of the cover there's a little
space to adjust the dit speed. And a little log scale to
set it with. Only one problem: the paddles have been broken
and smashed. Before I go downtown and find a pattern maker or
model maker who can replicate one out of "space age plastic"
(which I think means any plastic discovered during the 60s),
what chance might I have of finding another? Good question,
eh, comrades?

Hi ho hi ho
73
Nils
WB8IJN

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Ptcandy@aol.com
Subject: [1818] SWR question
Message-ID: <951223095748_22261980@emout04.mail.aol.com>

I have been following the discussion regarding feed line and SWR over the
past few days. I don't understand all of it but I do see how you cannot
change the SWR by altering the length of feedline. I also understand the
proper way of accurately measuring the SWR.

HOWEVER here on Long Island, everything is covered with snow and ice and I
cannot get to my antennas I want to get a good idea as to whether the SWR
readings at the meter are accurate without leaving the shack What would be
the most practical way.

If I understand what I have read, I should take an SWR reading and then add a
moderate length of coax about 20 feet or so (the run from the rig to the
antenna is about 60 feet). If the readings are the same, can I assume these

SWR readings are correct?

I have been told that the match between antenna and feedline doesn't matter it the feedline is balanced. I use a dipole cut for 40 meters fed to the rig by about 80 feet of the commercial twin lead. I use this antenna primarily for 40 and 80 meters.The antenna works well on 40 but obviously not on 80.Is there a practical way of improving my performance on 80 meters without hurting the antenna's effectiveness on 40 meters? I have a rather small yard so I cannot really add more than ten feet of antenna. I can add twenty feet or more wire if I let the antenna touch the tree branches.

Have a good holiday.
Peter N2KPY

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: [1814] The season of giving
Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.951223063640.539073464D-100000@utkvx.utk.edu>

Some recent and wonderful exchanges of ideas, both distributed to the list and direct to me, have reminded me of something true of the folks on this list and worth thinking about in this season of giving.

I have a theory of ham radio, inherited from my Dad (ex-1ATG, ex-W1BUK, now KA1TXF at 89): hams will give you the shirts off their backs, with only one condition: not that you give them back, but that--when the time comes--you pass the shirts on to others who may need them.

My personal thanks to all who have shared their knowledge (often gained at considerable personal effort to answer someone's specific question), no matter what aspect of hamming has been involved. May 1996--and even 2996--see the continuation of this spirit.

And to those who feel they have more questions than answers (is that everyone?), never fear asking your question on this list. Sometimes, asking what seems to be a basic question makes one feel a little embarrassed, a little foolish. But, over 30 years of teaching, I have always told my students this: Better to look foolish, ask a question, and learn than to be silent, look wise, and flunk. Unlike a classroom, ham radio is more patient, because in hamming, you never flunk until you quit trying. That is another of its wonders.

May the only flames be those in your fireplace as you share the season with family and friends--and of course the flame of amateur radio and QRP in your heart (or in whatever other part of the body you keep it--spleens

and gall bladders were once popular places to keep feelings).

Thanks, happy holidays, and a very good 1996 to all.

-73-
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: tdrumm@sparc.isl.net (Tony Drumm)
Subject: [1822] Which band next?
Message-ID: <199512231713.LAA23956@sparc.isl.net>

My only QRP rig now is an OHR Explorer for 20m. I'm thinking about getting an Explorer II (hopefully in the next group buy), but I'm not sure which band to try next - 40m or 30m. I'm leaning toward 30m due, in part, to a lot of discussion here last summer. And, 30 seems to be quieter without the SSB and BC signals. I mainly got into QRP to have a simple rig I could take camping or on trips but I have made a few contacts during contests - which rules out 30.

I suppose I could just buy one of each 8^)!

73.
Tony Drumm
internet: tdrumm@sparc.isl.net
Packet: aa0sm@wd0gnk.#semn.mn.usa.na

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: "Tim Stabler" <TSTABLER@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>
Subject: [1827] Xmas
Message-ID: <638A0D065E@iunhaw1.iun.indiana.edu>

Classes are over and grades are in. The shopping is done (whether it really is or not). The "toddy for the body" is prepared. So, the best to each and everyone this holiday season. I hope everyone has made out their "Things to do List" for 1996. I have---OHR Explorer II for 30M (got mine on the 14th) tops the list. If I can get the code up to speed, will go for extra.

Have a Happy!!!

Tim Stabler
Department of Biology
Indiana University Northwest
Gary, IN 46408

(219)980-6718
FAX: (219)980-7125

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: NONE <wynnt@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>
Subject: [1817] Re: Folded dipole query
Message-ID: <Pine.SOL.3.91.951223092131.13825A-100000@utkux1.utk.edu>

On Fri, 22 Dec 1995 11:48:52 EST "Reich, Christopher N"
<cnr@rfpo2.rfc.comm.harris.com> wrote:

>Does anyone have any experience or thoughts using a non-resonant folded
>dipole with an antenna tuner for multi-band operation? I can't help but
>wonder if the broad-banded characteristics of a resonant folded dipole will
>make the antenna tuner adjustements less "touchy".

On Fri, 22 Dec 1995 20:51:41 EST cebik@utkvx.utcc.utk.edu wrote:

<results of modeling a 40M FD fed from 40M thru 10M, eliminated for brevity>

A Cantenna(R), Heathkit's name for their famous oil cooled
1KW Dummy Load, at 50 ft., has a 50 +0j feed; so can a center fed 1/2 wave
single wire dipole at xx feet. Only one of the two is a decent antenna.;-)
Also, as cebik and others have mentioned, given certain rogue combo's of
feedline, antenna, and drive freq., one can overtax an antenna tuner
or balun and/or transmitter.

>From an experience point of view:

My 40M FD, fed with twinlead loads well with my ATU on 30M, is relatively
broadbanded on 30M, and is efficient. The same loads kinky with my ATU
on 20M, is touchy, and sucks as far as efficiency. The same on 17M? -
results are like 20M only worse. (wynnt's definition of good antenna
efficiency is that he can use it to work QRP what he can hear most of
the time).

So another answer to the original question is - driving a FD with
off-resonance frequencies is a mixed bag.

If one wants a fair multiband single antenna with ATU support, try
a G5RV or a center fed dipole, 1/2 wave on the lowest freq, feed with
450 or 600 ohm line and a robust ATU. If one wants a good single band
antenna that can accomodate relatively cheap and efficient feedline, try
a folded dipole. For a good fat dipole (basically a two wire cage)
article see "The ARRL Antenna Compendium Vol.2" p. 106.

Happy holidays,
wynnt

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: WD6BOR@aol.com
Subject: [1808] Re: Interesting Stats
Message-ID: <951223012925_77904726@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Chuck,

What about those who are ARCI, Norcal AND QRP-L?

Subdivided by gender and right/left brain function.

I like to drop you a note occasionally to let yoou know how much I'm enjoying
QRP-L and your postings. TNX es 72.

Darrel, WD6BOR

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: PaulKB8N@aol.com
Subject: [1809] Re: more on folded dipoles (long: delete now if not interested)
Message-ID: <951223022606_22168746@emout05.mail.aol.com>

Thanks LB for your wonderful posts on the folded dipole. It is truly an
efficient antenna for single and odd-harmonic operation, but not great as an
all band antenna. My experience has indicated that a properly tuned folded
dipole is slightly more efficient than a single wire dipole, but a single
wire dipole cut for 40M, fed with balanced feeders is a remarkable performer.

If I have room for only one antenna, that is my antenna of choice! I've used
it mostly in inverted vee fashion with thr apex between 25 and 35 feet, and
the ends between 8 and 10 feet above ground and have always been pleased with
the results. Even on 80M, I can tune it as a top loaded vertical by shorting
the feeders together and tuning it directly without the balun in place.

I agree completely with your observation that you do NOT consider velocity factor when cutting the folded dipole to length, and I have a load of experience top prove this. Here is my methodology for a no-tuner folded dipole. 1) I design a 6:1 balun to provide a 1:1 SWR into a 300 ohm resistive load (carbon resistor). 2) I extend my 300 ohm feedline out to the feedpoint that I'm going to use. 3) I attach the 300 ohm resistor across the far end of the feedline and again confirm that I have a 1:1 load (most 300 ohm line has impedence characteristics as advertised, but some is off) I attach the folded dipole that is about 2 % longer than formula, raise it to the desired height, and prune the ends until I show a 1:1 SWR. Observing SWR the frequency is moved up and down the band gives you a very good idea where resonance is and about how much you need to cut off. As you raise and lower the ends, you will note the resonant frequency go up and down slightly.

Since I only operate CW, I cut my dipoles for resonance at 7040. I can get 1:1 SWR from 7000 to 7100 KHz, but can even operate the entire phone band with an SWR of less than 1.5:1. I use a broadband ferrite rod balun, and with careful design, can also get a very respectable SWR on 15M as well.

Again LB, you are right on with your observations. A folded dipole is an efficient single band antenna, but a single wire dipole antenna is much more flexible for multiband use!

73, Paul

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: cebik@UTKVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: [1813] Re: more on folded dipoles (long: delete now if not interested)
Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.951223061853.539073464C-100000@utkvx.utk.edu>

Paul,

Thank you for your observations and especially for the description of your procedures in setting up a folded dipole for proper operation. Too often, I (and possibly others) am tempted to "throw up an antenna" without taking the time to ensure that all parts of the total antenna-feedline-balun-matching system are operative and integrated. Today, the tools for making the parts work exist and are accessible.

I appreciate your notes on using a 6:1 balun to match the nearly 300-ohm FD Z to 50-ohm coax or 50-ohm rigs. A 4:1 balun will work with a reasonably low SWR, but the 6:1 balun is more precise. Some of the folks on this list may be interested in a construction description. Of course,

using 300-ohm line to an ATU or fixed network in the shack or at the window sill will also work fine. Since this will be distributed, I shall also add that whatever line is used for the FD elements (300-ohm, 450-ohm, home-made parallel line with spreaders), the feedpoint impedance is 280-290 ohms, calling for 300-ohm feedline on the resonant frequency for a proper antenna-to-feedline match.

Your note on some 300-ohm line being off the mark is also well taken. A quality manufacturer like Belden or equivalent is wise--or check with quality dealers like the Wireman or equivalent (with no specific commercial recommendation intended here). There are some cheap, light duty, no-name twinlead version available today that should be avoided.

Thanks again for putting the FD on a practical basis.

Happy holidays.

-73-
LB, W4RNL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: WD6BOR@aol.com
Subject: [1833] Re: QRP kits; UNBIASED, complete summary needed
Message-ID: <951223194024_78186702@emout05.mail.aol.com>

To all those asking about available kits, start with kits.txt from info-serv@arrl.org for a very comprehensive listing of kits and suppliers. Popular Electronics also published an article on kits in the July '94 issue which can be found in most public libraries.

These references are just a starting point but are easily obtainable. Unless it has been recently revised the ARRL file might not have information on Wilderness Radio, but there is enough information on this list to find their address.

Having built the Norcal 40 and having the Cascade under construction I am willing to personally vouch for the work Wayne has done designing a radio that works well right off the bat with a little attention paid to good construction practices. The excellent documentation is another plus for these rigs.

There are many well designed and documented kits out there that are priced around the $100 mark. The satisfaction to be had in building your own radio and making it work is, of course, priceless.

Jump right in! The water's fine!

72 es 73

Darrel, WD6BOR

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Jacqueline Herman <jherman@sierra.net>
Subject: [1830] Re: SKN, Feliz Navidad, Godt nyttaar, o.s.v.
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951223152430.20977B-100000@diamond>

Nils: That bug with the plastic cover was referred to as the "Bug in a Coffin". Key collector Randy Cole had a couple he was selling awhile back. I bought mine for $12 back in the mid-60s.

73 from Hawaii (even though I'm currently in Nevada...),
Jeff NH6IL

From qrp-l@lehigh.edu Sat Dec 23 21:13:39 1995
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: [1816] Re: Vitamin V: Voltage!
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.951223065943.25418A-100000@ume>

Checked out vitamin supplements plus "Mega Vitamin" therapy:

	Supply voltage (V)	Power output (W)
20 meters	12.6	0.7
	18.6	1.4
	24.5	1.9

	Supply voltage (V)	Power output (W)
30 meters	12.6	1.1
	18.6	2.1
	24.5	2.4

	Supply voltage (V)	Power output (W)

40 meters	12.6	1.9
	18.6	2.9
	24.5	3.1

Meausured power output with Diamnond SX600 on 0-5 watt scale (Calibrated to a Bird wattmeter) into dummy load and resonant antennas.

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E) * VE6GK
Clinical Assistant Professor * NorCal 519 ARCI 7650 GQRP 8329
Faculty of Medicine, Univ. of Calgary * "Power is no substitute for skill"